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## CLYBURN ON EARMARK REFORM

WASHINGTON, DC—House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn today announced support for measures being implemented by the House Appropriations Committee to further reform the earmarking process. The reforms include 1) **Increased Executive Branch Review:** When a Member submits a request for an earmark, the appropriate Executive Branch agency will be given 20 days to review the project to ensure that the earmark is eligible to receive funds and meets goals established in law; and 2) **Competitive Selection Required of Earmark Funding Directed to For-Profits:** For any earmark intended to be directed to a for-profit entity, the Executive Branch will be required to ensure that the earmark will be awarded through a competitive bidding process. Following is Clyburn's statement:

"The earmarking process grew out of control over the last decade—the number of earmarks quadrupled and bad actors gamed the system until Democrats dramatically reformed the process two years ago. We immediately imposed a one-year moratorium and implemented a new system of transparency and accountability and reduced overall earmarks by over 40 percent. In addition this year, members are required to post their earmark requests online for public view and earmarks are limited to one percent of discretionary spending. And today we are implementing further reform to require increased executive branch review to ensure all earmarks have merit and competitive selection on earmarks directed to private for-profit entities.

"We must be vigilant about abuse of the process, but we should not eliminate earmarks all together. Earmarks, when implemented lawfully, have a legitimate and worthy purpose and should be able to stand up to public scrutiny and review. I believe that as an elected representative from the Sixth District of South Carolina I have a better sense of the needs of my district than a nameless bureaucrat in any administration. I look forward to working with my colleagues towards a more open, transparent and accountable earmark process."